

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Trade Negotiations; Industrial conditions in Bulgaria

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

1. The Bulgarian trade delegation presently in Prague is seeking to purchase various categories of machinery; the principal item is complete equipment from Skoda for four electrical power plants. Czech industry is unable to meet the board requirements set forth by Bulgaria and therefore negotiations will reach a dead end. The Czechs are perturbed by the fact that, while the Bulgarians exchange manganese, iron ore, and coal for Russian products, they are willing to give the Czechs only tobacco and fruit and no strategic raw materials.
2. It is reported that the turnover in Bulgarian engineering leaders has been almost 100 percent. Before the war, source was widely acquainted in Bulgarian engineering circles. For the past eighteen months he has looked among all Bulgarian trade representatives for friends he knew, but has found only one. Internal conditions in industry are chaotic. The Communist Party is in complete control of all key positions and is gradually forcing all non-Communists into the party because food tickets are issued only to party members. There is still a strong non-Communist element in the country, but this is gradually breaking down in the face of the world attitude that the country is totally within the Russian orbit.

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